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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Jacqueline E. Heard et al	:	
Application No. 10/675,852	:	DECISION DISMISSING PETITIONS
Filed: September 30, 2003	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND (a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. MBI-0022CIP	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed December 16, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional and provisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED**

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000 and after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with item (1).

The amendment to the specification to add a claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed provisional applications is not acceptable since it improperly incorporates by reference the prior-filed applications. An incorporation by reference statement added after an application's filing date is not effective because no new matter can be added to an application after its filing date (*see* 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)). If an incorporation by reference statement is included in an amendment to the specification to add a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 after the filing date of the application, the amendment would not be proper. When a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is submitted after the filing of an application, the reference to the prior application cannot include an incorporation by reference statement of the prior application. *See Dart Industries v. Banner*, 636 F.2d 684, 207 USPQ 273 (C.A.D.C. 1980). *Note* MPEP §§ 201.06(c) and 608.04(b).

The Supplemental Application Data Sheet submitted with the petition on December 16, 2004 is further not acceptable since it is not signed. *See* 37 CFR 1.33(b).

Before the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a renewed petition and either an Application Data Sheet or an amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121 and 37 CFR 1.76(b)(5)) to correct the above matters are required.

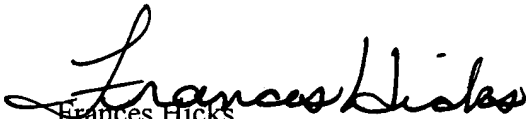
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Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.


Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions